

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3016

UNCLAS LIMA 11275

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, MASS, PE
SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON IMPRISONMENT OF LABOR
LAWYER

REF: STATE 299156, LIMA 10703

1. THE EMBASSY REPORTED ON THE RECENT ARREST OF ONA MEONO IN LIMA 10703 OF NOVEMBER 23. THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT CONTAINED IN STATE 299156 IS SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE WITH INFORMATION REPORTED IN REFTEL AND IN PRIOR EMBASSY REPORTS.

2. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL STATES FLATLY THAT THE ONLY REASON FOR THE 1975/76 ARREST OF FOUR LABOR LAWYERS INCLUDING ONA MEONO WAS "THEIR PROFESSIONAL WORK WITH THE TRADE UNIONS". THE GOP ON THE OTHER HAND HAS ALWAYS CONTENDED THAT THE LAWYERS WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL LABOR AGITATION. COUNSELING WORKERS TO STRIKE DURING THE POST-JULY 1976 PERIOD OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY IS ITSELF IN VIOLATION OF EMERGENCY DECREES.

3. IN A DECEMBER 13 PRESS CONFERENCE, INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS NOTED THAT ONA MEONO IS STILL BEING DETAINED FOR HIS ROLE AS "INTELLECTUAL AUTHOR" OF THE WORK SLOWDOWN OR "SABOTAGE OF PRODUCTION" AT THE COPEMACO (A SINGER SUBSIDIARY) SEWING MACHINE PLANT. CISNEROS ALLUDED TO THE IMMINENT DEPORTATION OF ONA MEONO. THE INTERIOR MINISTER ALSO REPORTED THE ARREST OF ANOTHER LABOR LAWYER, CAMILO VALQUI CANCHI, CHARGED WITH INCITING WORKERS TO STRIKE AT THE CERRO DE PASCO COPPER MINE.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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